

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated August 10, 2005, claims 1-13 were pending. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants also acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 3 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 have been amended, and claims 1 and 7 canceled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, allowable claims 2 and 8 have been amended to be in independent form based on independent claims 1 and 8, respectively. Claims 3 and 9 have also been amended to be dependent on claims 2 and 8, respectively.

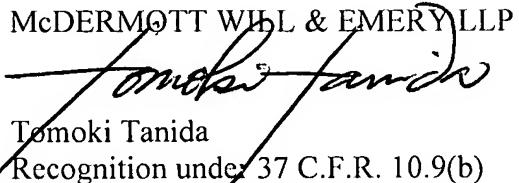
Based on this Amendment, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 7 has been rendered moot by cancellation of the claims. The amendment of claims 3 and 9 to be dependent on claims 2 and 8, respectively, has obviated antecedent basis issues for claims 3 and 9 because claims 2 and 8 recite the limitation at issue. In addition, a new title has been submitted herein in response to the Examiner's request. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 112, second paragraph, and the objection to the specification.

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recognition under 37 C.F.R. 10.9(b)

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